

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 09255

EXCON

E.O. 11652 XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW: ROUND III SCHEDULING

REF: OECD PARIS 9134

1. THE UK HAS REACTED PROMPTLY TO DUTCH PROPOSAL OUTLINED REFTTEL, AND, AS FORESEEN IN PARA. 4 THEREOF, SHARPLY NEGATIVELY. THE UK RIPOSTE, COCOM DOC REV (74) 25, READS AS FOLLOWS:

"1. THE UNITED KINGDOM AUTHORITIES SHARE THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE NETHERLAND DELEGATION IN COCOM DOC REV (74) 24: THAT THE LIST REVIEW SHOULD BE FINALISED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. THEY CANNOT HOWEVER AGREE THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM IS BY POSTPONING ALL SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON CERTAIN IMPORTANT ITEMS UNTIL OCTOBER.

"2. THE UK AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO JUDGE, IN ADVANCE OF DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE, WHICH ITEMS THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE UNANIMOUSLY IN ROUND 3. THEY ARE ACCORDINGLY MOST RELUCTANT TO FORECLOSE NOW ON THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING SUCH AGREEMENT BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS. THIS WOULD BE THE EFFECT OF POSTPONING DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN ITEMS
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UNTIL OCTOBER. FURTHERMORE, THEY SEE NO WAY OF

REACHING UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT IN THE COMMITTEE ON WHICH ITEMS WILL REQUIRE THE PRESENCE OF EXPERTS. FINALLY, THEY BELIEVE THAT, WHETHER OR NOT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION TAKES PLACE IN JUNE OR OCTOBER, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO REACH UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN ITEMS IN ONLY ONE FURTHER ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS. THE EFFECT THEREFORE OF THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION'S PROPOSAL WOULD BE TO DELAY STILL FURTHER THE COMPLETION OF THE 1974 LIST REVIEW, POSSIBLY EVEN TO A DATE IN 1976. THIS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AUTHORITIES.

"3. THE UK AUTHORITIES SEE NO REASON TO DEPART IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL WAY FROM THE PRACTICE IN PREVIOUS LIST REVIEWS. THEY RECALL THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE 1971 REVIEW:

18 OCTOBER-14 DECEMBER 1971: ROUND 1

15 FEBRUARY-25 APRIL 1972: ROUND 2

17 MAY-2 JUNE 1972: ROUND 3

18-26 SEPTEMBER 1972: ROUND 4.

THE UK AUTHORITIES NOTE THAT NO LESS THAN 71 ITEMS WERE DEALT WITH IN ROUND 3 OF THE PREVIOUS REVIEW. THEY BELIEVE THAT WHAT WAS POSSIBLE IN 1971/2 SHOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE IN 1974/5.

"4. THE UK AUTHORITIES AGREE WITH THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION THAT DELAY CAN BE CAUSED BY COUNTERPROPOSALS SUBMITTED LATE. THEY ACCORDINGLY PROPOSE THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PRACTICE, A DEADLINE SHOULD BE SET FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ANY NEW COUNTERPROPOSALS. ONLY SUCH PROPOSALS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT NOT LATER THAN THAT DEADLINE SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO BE DISCUSSED IN ROUND 3. PROPOSALS RECEIVED SUBSEQUENTLY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER DATE: EITHER IN A FURTHER ROUND OR IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMITTEE'S REGULAR TUESDAY MEETINGS AS APPROPRIATE.

"5. THE UK AUTHORITIES ACCORDINGLY SUBMIT, AS A COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION'S PROPOSAL, THE FOLLOWING TIME TABLE:

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: TUESDAY 20 MAY

ROUND 3: 2-28 JUNE

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ROUND 4: IF NECESSARY.

THE UK DELEGATION WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE VIEWS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AT THE REGULAR MEETINGS ON 15 APRIL."

2. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR APRIL 15 COCOM MEETING. COMMENTS AND ACTION REQUEST IN REFTEL REMAIN VALID.
TURNER

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